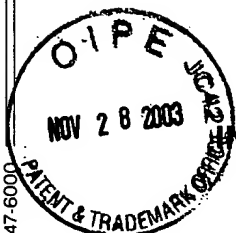


GIFFORD, KRASS, GROH, SPRINKLE, ANDERSON & CITKOWSKI, P.C. 280 N. OLD WOODWARD AVENUE, STE. 400, BIRMINGHAM, MICHIGAN 48009-5394 (248) 647-6000



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: Venegas, Jr.

Serial No.: 09/597,318

Group No.: 3635

Filed: June 19, 2000

Examiner: W. Yip

For: STANCHION SLEEVE AND METHOD OF USING SAME (As Amended)

AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RECEIVED
DEC 09 2003
GROUP 3600

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed May 22, 2003, please amend the above-referenced application as follows:

#16/C
12/18/03
FH